

Remarks

I. Introduction

This is in response to the Office Action dated August 30, 2005. The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 9, 11-14 and 22-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,374,112B1 (Widegren) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. US2001/0032254A1 (Hawkins). The Office Action also rejected claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Widegren in view of Hawkins and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,912,894 (Duault). The Office Action objected to claims 6-8, 10, 15-21 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Applicants have canceled rejected claims 1-3, 4, 5, 9, 11-14 and 22-31 in order to expedite issuance of this application. Such cancellation of claims is without prejudice and Applicants reserve the right to present these claims in a continuation application.

Applicants have rewritten objected-to claims 6, 7, 10, 15, 16, 18, and 20 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


Andrew F. Abramson
Reg. No. 52,538
Attorney for Applicant
Tel.: 973-533-1616

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AT&T Corp
Room 2A-207
One AT&T Way
Bedminster, NJ 07921